

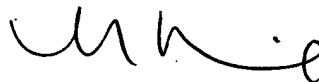
REMARKS

Applicant has added new independent claim 60, which is fully supported by the originally filed specification and drawings. Applicant has amended claims 38-43, 45, and 51 to depend from new claim 60. Claims 46-49 have been amended for improved clarity. The new claim and claim amendments introduce no new matter.

With respect to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group II, claims 37-59, without traverse. New claim 60 and the amended claims are directed at the elected invention. Applicants further note that although the invention of Group I was not elected, claim 1 is generic to the eight species identified by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

38. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], wherein methylprednisolone is released at a rate between 5 µg/day to 200 µg/day.

39. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], wherein methylprednisolone is released at a rate between 10 µg/day to 60 µg/day.

40. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], wherein methylprednisolone is released within a time period of 1 day to 45 days in a vascular environment.

41. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], wherein methylprednisolone is released within a time period of 7 days to 21 days in a vascular environment.

42. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], further comprising releasing at least one other substance in addition to methylprednisolone simultaneously with methylprednisolone release.

43. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], further comprising releasing at least one other substance in addition to methylprednisolone sequentially with methylprednisolone release.

45. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], wherein the releasing comprises delaying substantial release of methylprednisolone for at least one hour following implantation of the prosthesis.

46. (Amended) A method as in claim 45, wherein delaying release comprises slowing releasing methylprednisolone [release] from a reservoir with a material that at least partially degrades in a vascular environment over said one hour.

47. (Amended) A method as in claim 45, wherein delaying release comprises slowing releasing methylprednisolone [release] with a matrix that at least partially degrades in a vascular environment over said one hour.

48. (Amended) A method as in claim 45, wherein delaying release comprises slowing releasing methylprednisolone [release] with a nondegradable matrix that allows diffusion of methylprednisolone through the nondegradable matrix after said one hour.

49. (Amended) A method as in claim 45, wherein delaying release comprises slowing releasing methylprednisolone [release] with a rate limiting barrier that allows diffusion of methylprednisolone through the barrier after said one hour.

51. (Amended) A method as in claim 60 [37], wherein the prosthesis incorporates methylprednisolone by coating, spraying, dipping, deposition, chemical bonding, or painting methylprednisolone on the prosthesis.

60. (New) A method for inhibiting restenosis in a blood vessel following recanalization of the blood vessel, said method comprising:
implanting a vascular prosthesis in the blood vessel; and
releasing methylprednisolone from the prosthesis into the blood vessel so
as to inhibit smooth muscle cell proliferation.